

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
LOS ANGELES REGION**

**320 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200  
Los Angeles, California 90013  
(213) 576-6600**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
Public Notice No. 22-017**

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO TIME SCHEDULE ORDER (TSO) FOR  
WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS AND NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE  
ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT**

<b>DISCHARGER</b>	<b>DISCHARGE LOCATION</b>	<b>RECEIVING WATER</b>
Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District (Valencia Water Reclamation Plant)	28185 The Old Road, Santa Clarita, California	Reach 5 of the Santa Clara River

Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District (hereinafter SCVSD or Discharger) discharges tertiary-treated effluent from its Valencia Water Reclamation Plant (Valencia WRP) into Reach 5 of the Santa Clara River, which is a water of the United States, as designated in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region (Basin Plan). The discharge is regulated under waste discharge requirements contained in Order No. R4-2022-0174, adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Los Angeles Water Board) on May 12, 2022.

The prior NPDES permit, Order No. R4-2015-0071 contained both interim and final effluent limitations for chloride that tracked deadlines imposed by the Upper Santa Clara River Chloride Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). SCVSD has spent years seeking the least costly solution to achieve the chloride effluent limitation necessary to support attainment of water quality standards and protection of beneficial uses in the Santa Clara River. The SCVSD's two wastewater treatment plants (Saugus and Valencia WRPs) are not designed to remove chloride. To meet the TMDL-based chloride final effluent limitation, additional treatment equipment should have been designed, constructed and fully operational by the TMDL-established deadline of July 2019. SCVSD's Chloride Compliance Facilities Plan and Environmental Impact Report (Facilities Plan and EIR) recommended adding microfiltration and reverse osmosis (MF/RO) treatment at the Valencia WRP and replacing the existing chlorine-based disinfection process with ultraviolet (UV) disinfection at both the Saugus and Valencia WRPs.

However, the July 2019 deadline was not met because SCVSD encountered a 6-year delay associated with the CEQA process and CEQA approval of the EIR for the Saugus and Valencia WRPs.

On May 9, 2019, four years after Order No. R4-2015-0071 was adopted, the Los Angeles Water Board adopted Time Schedule Order (TSO) No. R4-2019-0055 for the Valencia WRP, because SCVSD would not be able to meet the chloride final effluent limitations contained in Order No. R4-2015-0071 until it completed its construction of the UV disinfection and MF/RO capital improvement projects at the Valencia WRP. Likewise, the Los Angeles Water Board adopted TSO No. R4-2019-0056 for the Saugus WRP because SCVSD would not be able to meet the chloride final effluent limitations contained in Saugus WRP's Order No. R4-2015-0072 until it completed its construction of the companion UV disinfection project at the Saugus WRP and completed its construction of UV disinfection and MF/RO capital improvement projects at the Valencia WRP. To explain, the ability of the Saugus WRP to ultimately meet its chloride limits is critically dependent on Valencia WRP's completion of the MF/RO project because the Valencia WRP will be removing a flow weighted portion of chloride originating from the Saugus WRP. Conversion to UV disinfection alone will not be enough for the Saugus WRP to comply with its chloride final effluent limitation if the flow weighted portion of chloride that it contributes to Reach 6 of the Santa Clara River is not removed. Thus, it is critically important that both the Saugus and Valencia WRPs complete their plant upgrades such that the chloride water quality objective can be met downstream of the Valencia WRP's discharge point.

On November 3, 2020, SCVSD requested that the TSO milestone for starting up the UV facilities at the Valencia WRP be extended by eight months, through August 31, 2021, because the Valencia WRP would not be able to achieve compliance with the chloride final effluent limitation due to delays associated with COVID-19 and wildfire issues. On December 31, 2020, the Executive Officer of the Los Angeles Water Board considered all factors in the case and, pursuant to her delegated authority from the Los Angeles Water Board, issued the amended TSO No. R4-2019-0055-A01.

On February 10, 2021, the Los Angeles Water Board received a letter from SCVSD requesting an eleven-month extension of two of the milestones associated with the AWTF capital improvement project at the Valencia WRP: the milestone requiring the commissioning of the AWTF by July 31, 2021 and the milestone requiring the startup of the AWTF by January 31, 2022. SCVSD explained the COVID-19 pandemic and wildfire related issues, described as the cause for the delay in the completion of the UV disinfection system, are also causing a delay in the completion of the AWTF. The Los Angeles Water Board adopted the amended TSO No. R4-2019-0055-A02 on July 8, 2021.

On September 30, 2022, the Los Angeles Water Board received a request for a ten-month extension of the final milestone date in TSO No. R4-2019-0055-A02 that requires the start-up of the AWTF by December 31, 2022. SCVSD included supply chain issues, quality assurance and quality control, power shutoffs due to wildfires, and commissioning challenges as rationale for the request.

On the basis of preliminary staff review and application of lawful standards and regulations, the Los Angeles Water Board, tentatively proposes to amend the Valencia WRP TSO No. R4-2019-0055-A02, by adding milestones for functional testing of the AWTF system and a

clean water test, and starting up the AWTF by October 31, 2023. No changes to the NPDES permit are being proposed at this time.

### **PUBLIC HEARING DATE AND LOCATION**

The Los Angeles Water Board will hold a public hearing on the tentative amended TSO during its regular Board meeting on the following date and time and at the following location:

Date: December 8, 2022  
Time: 9:00 a.m.  
Place: WRD Headquarters Board Room  
4040 Paramount Blvd  
Lakewood, CA 90712

A virtual platform is also available for those who want to join online. Please follow the directions provided in the agenda to register or to view the Board meeting.

Interested persons are invited to attend. At the public hearing, the Los Angeles Water Board will hear testimony, if any, pertinent to the TSO. Oral testimony will be heard; however, for accuracy of the record, important testimony should be in writing.

Please be aware that dates and venues may change. Our [Web address](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/board_info/agenda/index.shtml) is [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/board\\_info/agenda/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/board_info/agenda/index.shtml), where you can access the current agenda for changes in dates and locations.

### **AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS**

The tentative amended TSO, other documents relied upon, comments received, and other information on file are available for inspection and copying between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday by appointment at the following address:

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board  
320 West 4th Street, Suite 200  
Los Angeles, CA 90013

The tentative amended TSO is available on the Los Angeles Water Board's [website](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/board_decisions/tentative_orders/) at: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/board\\_decisions/tentative\\_orders/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/board_decisions/tentative_orders/) under the "Individual NPDES" heading.

The entire file (documents relied upon, comments received, and other information) will become a part of the administrative record of this proceeding, irrespective of whether individual documents are specifically referenced during the hearing. The entire file will not be present in the hearing room. Should any interested persons desire staff to bring to the hearing any documents that are not included in the agenda packet, they must submit a written or electronic request to staff during business hours, not later than five business days before the hearing. The request must identify the documents with enough specificity for staff to locate them.

### **NATURE OF HEARING**

This will be a formal adjudicative hearing pursuant to section 648 et seq. of title 23 of the California Code of Regulations. Chapter 5 of the California Administrative Procedure Act (commencing with section 11500 of the Government Code) will not apply to this proceeding.

*Ex Parte Communications Prohibited:* As a quasi-adjudicative proceeding, no board member may discuss the subject of this hearing with any person, except during the public hearing itself. Any communications to the Los Angeles Water Board must be directed to staff.

### **COMMUNICATIONS WITH STAFF BEFORE THE HEARING**

The lead staff member responsible for this item is:

Veronica Cuevas  
320 West 4th Street, Suite 200  
Los Angeles, CA 90013  
<mailto:veronica.cuevas@waterboards.ca.gov>

### **PARTIES TO THE HEARING**

The following are the parties to this proceeding:

Santa Clarita Valley Sanitation District

Any other persons requesting party status must submit a written or electronic request to staff no later than 20 business days before the hearing. All parties will be notified if other persons are so designated.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS AND SUBMITTAL OF EVIDENCE**

Persons wishing to comment on, object to, the Tentative Amended TSO, or submit evidence for the Board to consider, are invited to submit them in writing to [Veronica Cuevas](mailto:Veronica.Cuevas@waterboards.ca.gov) at [Veronica.Cuevas@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Veronica.Cuevas@waterboards.ca.gov). To be evaluated and responded to by the Los Angeles Water board staff, included in the Board's agenda folder, and fully considered by the Board, written comments must be received no later than **5:00 p.m. on November 17, 2022**. Failure to comply with these requirements is grounds for the Los Angeles Water Board to refuse to admit the proposed written comment or exhibit into evidence pursuant to section 648.4, title 23 of the California Code of Regulations.

### **HEARING PROCEDURE**

The Board meeting, of which this hearing is a part, will start at 9:00 a.m. Interested persons are invited to attend. When the agenda item is called, Los Angeles Water Board staff will present the matter under consideration, after which oral statements from parties or interested persons will be heard. For accuracy of the record, all important testimony should be in writing. The Board will include in the administrative record written transcriptions of oral testimony that is actually presented at the hearing. Oral testimony may be limited to three

minutes or less for each interested person, depending on the number of interested persons wishing to be heard.

Parties or interested persons with similar concerns or opinions are encouraged to choose one representative to speak and are encouraged to coordinate their presentations with each other. Parties will be advised after the receipt of public comments, but prior to the date of the hearing, of the amount of time each is allocated for presentations. That decision will be based upon the complexity and number of issues under consideration, the extent to which the parties have coordinated, the number of parties and interested persons anticipated, and the time available for the hearing. The parties are invited to contact staff not later than **November 23, 2022**, (two weeks prior to the hearing) to discuss how much time they believe is necessary for their presentations, and staff will endeavor to accommodate reasonable requests. At the conclusion of testimony, the Board will deliberate in open or close session, and render a decision.

The Board meeting does not generally require the prior identification of witnesses, the cross examination of witnesses, or other procedures not specified in this notice. Parties or persons with special procedural requests or requests for alternative hearing procedures should contact staff, who will endeavor to accommodate reasonable requests. Objections to any procedure to be used during this hearing must be submitted in writing no later than close of business 15 business days prior to the date of the hearing. (Any objections related to the amount of time allocated for parties' presentations must be submitted within two business days of notice thereof, if that date is less than 15 business days before the hearing.) Absent such objections, any procedure not specified in this hearing notice will be waived pursuant to section 648(d) of title 23 of the California Code of Regulations. Procedural objections will not be entertained at the hearing. If there should not be a quorum on the scheduled date of this meeting, all cases will be automatically continued to the next scheduled meeting on **February 23, 2023**. A continuance will not extend any time set forth herein.